

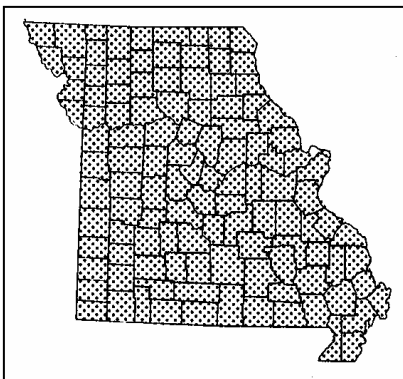
## Ash

*Fraxinus* supp.

This group includes white ash (*F. americana* L.), green ash (*F. pennsylvanica* Marsh.) and blue ash (*F. quadrangulata* Michx.). There are botanical differences between these species of ash in the tree form, but the woods of the ashes are generally similar. Some smaller species of ash are not commercially important. Commercial white ash consists mostly of white ash and green ash. These two species are common through most of Missouri. Ash makes its best growth on deep, moist soils, especially along the major streams. These trees are also planted widely along streets and in yards as ornamentals.

The heartwood of ash is generally brown, while the sapwood is light yellow, cream-colored, or nearly white. Second growth trees have a large proportion of sapwood. The bark is light gray, with ridges forming a diamond pattern in both white and green ash. Blue ash bark has a "fish scale" pattern. The wood is moderately heavy, strong, hard and stiff, and has a high resistance to shock. It retains its shape well and resists warping and shrinking. The grain is quite pronounced and the wood is ring porous. The wood had no odor or taste and may be used for woodwork which comes in contact with food.

It is used for baseball bats, hockey sticks, tool handles, oars, solid furniture, slack cooperage, veneer for furniture and interior trim. It stains easily and finishes well. In the case of handles, ash is preferred for lifting tools because of its lighter weight, while hickory is better for striking tools because of its greater strength. Where available, ash is an excellent workshop wood where strength and resilience are specific requirements. It also makes beautiful furniture.



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